11.   A management system for managing a transportation system by a transportation business entity, said system comprising:

at least one sub-system for collecting at least one set of transportation data;

a sub-system for comparing the at least one set of collected transportation data set to at least one standard transportation data;

a sub-system for generating at least one problem area data set based upon the comparison of the collected and standard data; and

a management and decision making sub-system that is configured to recommend business activities relating to managing the transportation business entity based on at least one of the generated problem area data set and the comparison of the collected and standard data.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS

21. (newly added) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein generating at least one problem area data set based upon the comparison of the collected and standard data comprises identifying delays for each of at least one of a selected type of delay or failure.

22. (newly added) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said selected type of delay comprises at least one of locomotive delays, railcar delays, maintenance delays and broken track delays.

23.   (newly added) A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein recommending business activities comprises sorting the identified delays based upon a magnitude of the delay.

24.   (newly added) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein recommending business activities relating to managing the transportation business entity comprises at least one of predicting a life of a railcar and predicting a maintenance cost of the railcar over the life of the railcar.